

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Purpose of this Notice: The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the East Lake Sammamish Master Plan Trail is being released for public review and comment. A public hearing will be conducted where the public may comment on the Draft EIS. A sixty (60) day comment period for interested citizens and agencies will begin on October 20, 2006 when the publication of Notice of Availability for this Draft EIS is in the Federal Registry. The sixty (60) day comment period will end on December 19, 2006.

Location of Project: The King County Facilities Management Division proposes to develop an alternative transportation corridor and recreation trail along approximately 11 miles of former railroad corridor on the east side of Lake Sammamish. The trail would extend from Gilman Boulevard in the City of Issaquah north to Bear Creek Trail in the City of Redmond. An Interim Use Trail was completed along this section of railroad corridor in March 2006.

Purpose of the EIS: As the local lead agency for the proposed project, King County Facilities Management Division has prepared a Draft EIS in conjunction with the lead federal agency, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), in order to meet the requirements of both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Washington's State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The purpose of the Draft EIS is to evaluate the potential impacts of the project alternatives that were identified as a result of the initial EIS scoping and alternatives selection process. This information will be used in conjunction with public and agency comments received during the Draft EIS comment period to assist the lead agencies in selecting a preferred alternative, which will be further analyzed in the Final EIS.

Project Description: The proposed project will design and construct an alternative non-motorized transportation corridor and multi-use recreational trail along the former BNSF railroad corridor on the east side of Lake Sammamish. A multi-use trail is synonymous with a "shared use path or trail" as defined by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). It is also defined as a "multi-purpose trail" in the King County Regional Trails Plan and as a "Class 1 bikeway" in the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Facilities for Non-Motorized Transportation.

The trail would provide access to recreation, employment, and retail centers in the City of Redmond, Sammamish, and Issaquah and complete a link in the King County regional trails system. The trail is intended to safely accommodate a variety of user groups such as bicyclists, pedestrians, runners, wheelchair users (including those with motorized wheelchairs), in-line skaters, and equestrians, and different ages and skill levels within

those groups. The Draft EIS outlines each of the five proposed project alternatives' impacts and benefits to a number of environmental considerations, including: earth, surface water and water quality, wetlands, vegetation and wildlife, fish resources, land use and shorelines, recreation, socioeconomic resources, visual quality, public services and utilities, transportation, noise, and historic, cultural, and archaeological resources.

Public Hearing: The Public Hearing will be held on November 9, 2006 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at:

**Bellevue Community College, Room N201
3000 Landerholm Circle SE
Bellevue, Washington**

The purpose of the open house is to allow participants to offer oral comments on the Draft EIS. The meeting site for the public hearing is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring reasonable accommodation may request written materials in alternative formats, sign language, interpreters, physical accessibility accommodations, or other reasonable accommodations by calling (206) 684-1154 (voice) or TTY Relay: 711.

Public Comment Period: All comments received prior to December 19, 2006 will be reviewed by the East Lake Sammamish Master Plan Trail Project Team and included in the formal comment record for consideration in the Final EIS. Written comments may be sent to Gina Auld, Project Manager, King County Facilities Management Division, King Street Center, 201 South Jackson Street, #700, Seattle, WA 98104 or sent via e-mail to fmd.sepacomments@metrokc.gov. If you have any questions about this proposal, or about the DEIS, please contact Gina Auld, Project Manager, at (206) 263-7281.

Where documents are available: The Draft EIS will be available for review at the following locations:

Seattle Public Library – 1000 4th Ave, Seattle, WA
Bellevue Public Library – 1111-110th Avenue, Bellevue, WA
Redmond Public Library – 15990 NE 85th Street, Redmond, WA
Sammamish Public Library – 825-228th Avenue NE, Sammamish, WA
Issaquah Public Library – 10 West Sunset Way, Issaquah, WA

Copies of the Draft EIS and Technical Appendices are available for review at the King County Facilities Management Division, King County Administration Building, Room 320, 500 Fourth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104.

Printed copies of the Draft EIS can be purchased from Olympic Reprographics for the cost of reproduction. Documents can be obtained by contacting Robert Stiteler at (206) 373-7043. Costs of the documents are listed below:

Volume 1 (including a CD-ROM of Volume 2 Plan Sheets, Volume 3 Technical Appendices, and Discipline Reports) \$65
Volume 2 Plan Sheets \$45
Volume 3 Technical Appendices \$50

CD-ROMs of the Draft EIS and Technical Appendices are also available at the reproduction cost of \$1.50 per CD-ROM (Volumes 1, 2, 3, and Discipline Reports). Individuals can contact Cat Hicks, King County Department of Executive Services at (206) 296-1822.

In addition, you may download project documents and get general project information at the project website: www.metrokc.gov/eastlakesammamishtrail

King County assures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 and related statutes by prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, national origin, and sex in the provision of benefits and services.

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